GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1867
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2015
METHANE GAS BLOCKS
Patel Shri Prahlad Singh

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of methane gas blocks in the country, State/UT-wise including Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether the Government proposes to explore methane gas in the country particularly in Tamil Nadu;

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the names of companies which have been allotted methane gas blocks for exploration, company/State/UT-wise;

(d) whether production from these blocks has been started and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether the Government has banned exploration of methane reserves on agricultural land and if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Tamil Nadu?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)

(a): The Government has awarded 33 blocks for exploration and exploitation of Coal Bed Methane (CBM). The details of CBM blocks State/UT-wise including Tamil Nadu are placed at Annexure-I.

(b) & (c): Yes, Madam. In the State of Tamil Nadu, one CBM block, namely, MG-CBM-2008/IV has been awarded to M/s Great Eastern Energy Corporation Limited (GEECL). The contract for the block measuring 667 sq. km. of area was signed on 29.07.2010 between Government of India and M/s GEECL for exploration and exploitation of CBM gas in Mannargudi area of Tamil Nadu. The Petroleum Exploration License (PEL) was granted by State Government of Tamil Nadu to M/s GEECL on 04.11.2011. The contractor, M/s GEECL, is to execute a Minimum Work Program but has not commenced any work in the awarded block so far.

(d): Yes, Madam. Presently CBM is being produced from 3 blocks, namely, Raniganj (South), Raniganj (East) and Jharia. Current status for all blocks is placed at Annexure-I.

(e): No, Madam.